REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 20, 21, 29, and 55 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I.   Rejection of Claims 1-16, 20, 21, 29 and 55 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-16, 20, 21, 29 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heckerman *et al.* (Inferring Informational Goals from Free-Text Queries: A Bayesian Approach) in view of Rohra Suda *et al.* (U.S. 5,282,265). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Heckerman *et al.* in view of Rohra Suda *et al.* does not teach or suggest each and every feature of applicants' claimed invention.

> To reject claims in an application under §103, an examiner must establish a prima facie case of obviousness. A prima facie case of obviousness is established by a showing of three basic criteria. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* MPEP §706.02(j). The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. *See In re Vaeck,* 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The subject invention relates to providing a system for inferring information goals and preferred levels of detail of an answer based upon user input and extrinsic data. For example, applicants' claimed invention can produce a specific summary for an answer to a query based on the physical location from which the query was generated. In particular, claim 1 (and similarly independent claims 29 and 55) recites *the inference engine further inferring one or more*

7

preferred levels of detail for an answer based at least on one of an inferred age of a user, a physical location of a user, and an application being employed by the user.

As conceded in the Office Action, Heckerman *et al.* does not teach the aforementioned novel aspects of applicants' invention as recited in the subject claim. The cited reference teaches an intelligent user assistance system that infers what type of help a user needs by analyzing free-text queries. Furthermore contrary to assertions in the Office Action, Rohra Suda *et al.* also does not teach these novel features of the subject claims. The cited art discloses a system for answering questions posed by users based upon understanding the goal of the natural language query input. However, the section of the prior art reference cited discloses analysis of the query text to identify the topic of the query. In this example described by Rohra Suda *et al.*, someone is seeking information on how to stop a daughter from crying. The reference discloses that the topic of the query is an infant, not that the user of the system is an infant. The cited art does not teach that the system infers the age of the user, which in this case is the parent or some other person taking care of the baby girl. Applicants' claimed invention provides for *tailoring levels of detail an answer* to a query in accordance with cognitive ability of the user, which can be inferred based on one or more metrics (*e.g.*, user age, location, application being employed by the user). Rohra Suda *et al.* does not tailor answers to a query in accordance with inferred attributes associated with a user inputting the query – this reference merely teaches a conventional question & answer system based on analysis of query text. The system of Rohra Suda *et al.* would provide a same amswer to a 5 year old and a 50 year old if they used a same text query. Therefore, Heckerman *et al.* in view of Rohra Suda *et al.* does not teach or suggest that the level of detail for an answer is inferred based upon at least on one of an inferred age *of a user*, a physical location *of a user*, and an application being employed *by the user*.

In view of at least the foregoing, applicants' representative respectfully submits that Heckerman *et al.* and Rohra Suda *et al.*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all limitations of applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 29 (and claims 2-3, 12-15, 20-21 that depend there from), and thus fails to make obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP215US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP
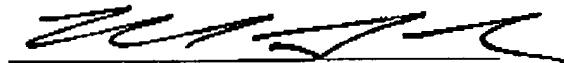
Himanshu S. Amin
Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731

9